

Pallid Sturgeon research and monitoring (spring rise in 2006 or not)

- Population assessment
- Track fish
- Catch fish that are believed to have spawned
- Nets below likely spawning areas to try and catch larvae
- Habitat assessment
- For pallid sturgeon activity, try and determine relative importance of flow, turbidity, temperature, and photoperiod
- In the short term, need team of experts to lead this – two people are necessary: a program administrator, and a science administrator (Corps/FWS/USGS); once recovery committee is on line, need to develop integrated monitoring and research program and an adaptive management program tied to independent science and including multi-stakeholder involvement
- Expert group needs to develop a 10-year study design for pallid sturgeon; we need ongoing research, but also focused projects that answer specific questions related to pallid sturgeon life history
- Need to focus on Gavins Point reach AND reach in Missouri where there is already a “natural” spring rise to address concerns from public meeting; need to be able to make comparisons and to be able to address issue of what’s happening in reach where there is already a spring rise due to precipitation and substantial tributary input; this may require additional resources and manpower over and above ongoing research and monitoring
- Team of experts should develop recommendation that Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Team allow a percentage of sexually mature adults in river to track and catch them; try to get some adults left in river instead of all going immediately into propagation facilities
- Open and transparent process to prioritize monitoring objectives; we need to focus on pallid sturgeon, but we can’t sacrifice ongoing monitoring on things like tern & plover habitat and other projects for increased pallid sturgeon monitoring
- Outreach of information on a continual basis to stakeholders should be a priority